

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MARK E. PALM ET AL.

For: DISHWASHER WITH KINETIC ENERGY WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Serial No.: 10/671,370

Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin

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Group Art Unit: 1792

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Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on May 22, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 16 recites a water distribution system for a dishwasher having a washing chamber defined by opposite side walls, a bottom wall, a top wall, a back wall, and a door, the water distribution system comprising: a disk having an upward facing surface, a downward facing surface and an outer peripheral edge, the disk being mounted on a top wall for rotation about a vertical axis, the disk having a plurality of vanes extending vertically from the upward facing surface toward the top wall and horizontally from the axis of rotation to about the peripheral edge, the plurality of vanes forming a plurality of openings along the peripheral edge of the disk; and a water nozzle positioned at a distance greater than a radius of the disk from the axis of rotation of the disk on one of the back wall, side walls, or top wall, the water nozzle

configured and arranged to project a single water jet substantially horizontally and with linear kinetic energy along a line lying in a plane, the single water jet being directed by the nozzle generally radially inwardly towards the axis of rotation of the disk into the plurality of openings to rotate the disk and thereby redirect the water radially outwardly horizontally with radial kinetic energy substantially co-planar with the linear kinetic energy of the single water jet, for distribution of the water in the washing chamber.

Independent claim 20 recites a dishwasher comprising: a washing chamber defined by side walls, a bottom wall, and a top wall; a disk mounted on the top wall for rotation about a vertical axis of rotation, the disk having a plurality of vanes; and a water nozzle positioned at a distance greater than a radius of the disk from the axis of rotation of the disk on one of the top wall or side walls, the water nozzle configured and arranged to project a single water jet substantially horizontally and with linear kinetic energy directed generally radially inwardly towards the axis of rotation along a line lying in a plane, the single water jet being directed by the nozzle generally radially inwardly towards the axis of rotation of the disk and onto the vanes of the disk to rotate the disk and thereby redirect the water radially outwardly horizontally with radial kinetic energy directed radially outwardly substantially co-planar with the linear kinetic energy of the single water jet, for distribution of the water in the washing chamber.

Independent claim 24 recites a dishwasher comprising: a washing chamber defined by side walls, a bottom wall, and a top wall; at least one rack positioned in the washing chamber positioned for washing objects in the rack; a disk mounted on the top wall within the washing chamber and above the rack for rotation about a vertical axis of rotation, the disk having a plurality of vanes, each vane having a vertical extent and a substantially greater horizontal extent, with the vertical extent remaining vertical as the disk rotates about the axis of rotation; and a water nozzle positioned at a distance greater than a radius of the disk from the axis of rotation of the disk on one of the top wall or side walls, the water nozzle configured and arranged to project a single water jet substantially horizontally and with linear kinetic energy directed generally radially inwardly towards the axis of rotation along a line lying in a plane, the single water jet being directed by the nozzle generally radially inwardly towards the axis of rotation of the disk and onto the vanes of the disk to rotate the disk and thereby redirect the water radially outwardly

horizontally with radial kinetic energy directed radially outwardly substantially co-planar with the linear kinetic energy of the single water jet, for distribution of the water in the washing chamber.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 16, 20 and 24.

Respectfully submitted,

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